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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member is presuming too many things. The question put was whether we had received any communication from the Planning Commission and the answer I gave was ' No '."

*Punam cultivation in Malabar.*

* 237 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of waste lands in Malabar;

(*b*) the extent of waste lands distributed for cultivation;

(*c*) whether the Government have received any applications for leasing out waste lands for punam cultivation; and

(*d*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) 1·47 lakh acres.

" (*b*) No waste land has been distributed for cultivation.

" (*c*) & (*d*) Nil. But permission for punam cultivation under section 3 (2) of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act has been given for 5,195·06 acres from April 1953 till about the middle of September 1954."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Previously when the Government had been giving statistics about the extent of waste land available in Malabar, they were saying that about 18 lakhs of acres of arable land were available. Now, the Government state that only 1·47 lakh acres of waste lands are available in Malabar. May I know whether it is a fact that the Government are revising the extent of waste lands in Malabar as a result of the increasing agitation for distribution of waste lands in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want time to verify the statement of the hon. Member."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The Government state in their reply that they have not received any application for leasing out waste lands for punam cultivation. May I know whether the District Officers have received any applications for leasing out waste lands for punam cultivation and will the Government direct the District Officers to distribute waste lands for punam cultivation? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I have already stated the extent of lands given for punam cultivation. If further applications are received, lands will be allotted for punam cultivation as per rules."

SRI V. K. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to explain the meaning of ' punam ' cultivation? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Punam cultivation is ' fugitive cultivation '."

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SRI O. KORAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that ' punam cultivation ' starts from December? Will the Government take immediate steps to lease out lands for ' punam cultivation '? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" As far as possible we shall try. Wherever lands can be given for ' punam cultivation ', it will be done in time."

SRI P. CHELLATHURAI :—" பூனம் விவசாயம் என்றால் 11-50
என்ன ? பதில் ஆங்கிலத்தில் சொல்லியிருப்பதினால் ஒன்றும் புரியவில்லை. a.m.
ஆதலால் தமிழில் விளக்கிச்சொல்லும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" ஒரே இடத்தில் சாகுபடியில்லாமல் ஒருவருஷம் ஒருஇடத்திலும், மற்றொரு வருஷம் இன்னொரு இடத்திலும் மாறிமாறி சாகுபடி செய்வதுதான் பூனம் விவசாயம் என்று பெயர்."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, this kind of shifting cultivation of the forest regions is very important as far as Malabar is concerned. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether after the recent Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act of 1954, the rent for the punam cultivation has been fixed at double the assessment and as such the landowners are not willing to lease out these lands in favour of the tenants, because they would be getting only a very much less amount? May I also know from the Hon. Minister whether under section 3 of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, the tenants would get exemption from the operation of the Act for traditional punam cultivation? There is a lot of confusion as to who has to make the application to the Collector for exemption and tenants are not getting any lands. Will Government see that these difficulties of the tenants are removed? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, apart from the confusions the hon. Member has referred to, he has sufficiently confused me. I therefore request the hon. Member to put it specifically and then I shall have it examined, for it has to be examined in relation to the Malabar Tenancy Act."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in view of the fact that section 52 of the Malabar Tenancy Act was specifically enacted to clothe the Government with the authority to lease out waste lands in the hands of private owners, I would like to know whether after the passing of this Amendment Act in 1954, Government have taken any step in that direction under this section and if so, whether they have been successful to any extent? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want notice to answer that question, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that this is a very important question so far as Malabar is concerned, and since a big struggle is going on in Malabar in regard to this and as

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Government are taking a very indifferent attitude towards this question, I request the Hon. the Speaker to allow a half-hour debate on this question.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' I have already allowed two half-hour debates and they have not yet taken place. On Monday next we will be having the half-hour debate on the sale of lorries and on Tuesday there is the half-hour debate on the question of lands for Harijans. I do not know when we can have this half-hour debate.''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—'' I do not mind if the debate is allowed even after three or four days. It is a very important question and hence I request a half-hour debate may be allowed on this.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' I shall allow a half-hour debate on this if there is time during this sitting.''

*Admission to Medical Colleges.*

* 238 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of candidates selected for admission to the Medical Colleges in the State during July 1954;

(*b*) the number of candidates who applied for admission;

(*c*) the number and percentage of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes; and

(*d*) the number of candidates selected from each of the following communities :—

(i) Brahman,

(ii) Non-Brahman,

(iii) Backward Classes,

(iv) Scheduled Castes, and

(v) Scheduled Tribes?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.''

SRI A. RATNAM :—'' May I know from the Hon. Minister how many Harijan candidates were admitted in the Medical College and what is the number districtwar? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' Fifteen candidates applied for admission and 14 of them were admitted. With regard to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the entire State is taken as one unit.''

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 816 infra.